

Remarks:

Applicants have carefully studied the non-final Examiner's Action mailed 08/09/2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire 11/09/2005, and all references cited therein. The amendment appearing above and these explanatory remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Action. Accordingly, this important patent application is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicants respond to the outstanding Action by centered headings and numbered paragraphs that correspond to the centered headings and paragraph numbering employed by the Office, to ensure full response on the merits to each finding of the Office.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

1. Applicants acknowledge the quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

2. Claims 1-5 and 7-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Montane. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection is requested for the reasons that follow.

The function keys of Montane are not spaced apart from the dot keys of Montane. More particularly, function keys "F," "G," "K," and "L" abut dot keys "3," "2," "5" and "6," respectively. The absence of a space between said keys makes it difficult for a user to distinguish between such abutting keys.

Nor are the function keys E-M spaced apart from one another. Moreover, dot keys 7, 3, 2, and 1 are clumped together with one another as are dot keys 4, 5, 6, and 8. Function key I is not associated with any dot key.

The dot keys and the function keys of Montane also share a common structure – flat, generally rectangular – and said keys are therefore indistinguishable from one another by feel.

In sharp and distinct contrast, Applicants provide function keys having a point-like structure that distinguishes them from the flat, generally rectangular structure of the dot keys. There is a one-to-one correspondence between each dot key and an associated function key, and said keys are spaced apart from one another, thereby overcoming the problems associated with abutting keys having the same physical structure as in Montane.

Montane provides no cursor router key. In its 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of dependent claims 6 and 1, made in paragraph 4 of the outstanding Office Action, the Office asserts that Schmidt discloses a cursor router key. This rejection applies to independent claims 1 and 7 because said claims as currently amended recite the cursor router key. Schmidt teaches away from the single router key as claimed by Applicant because Schmidt teaches five (5) separate keys in (five) 5 separate rows. Applicant positively claim a cursor router key in side-by-side alignment with a single row of left-hand dot keys and right-hand dot keys so that the left or right hand of a user may access the cursor router key without reaching above or below said single row.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

3. Applicants acknowledge the quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

4. Claims 6 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Montane in view of Schmidt. This ground of rejection is rendered moot by the cancellation of said claims.

Conclusion

5. Applicants agree that the art made of record and not relied upon is not more pertinent to the claimed invention than the art cited.

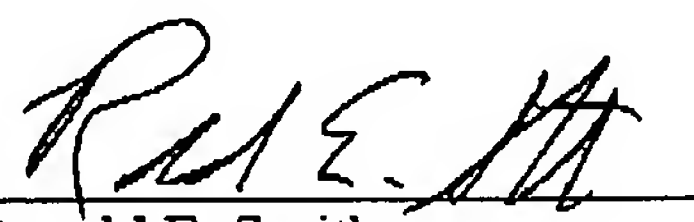
6. If the Office is not fully persuaded as to the merits of Applicants' position, or if an Examiner's Amendment would place the pending claims in condition for allowance, a telephone call to the undersigned at (727) 507-8558 is requested. Applicants thank the Office for its careful examination of this important patent application.

Very respectfully,

SMITH & HOPEN

Dated: November 8, 2005

By:

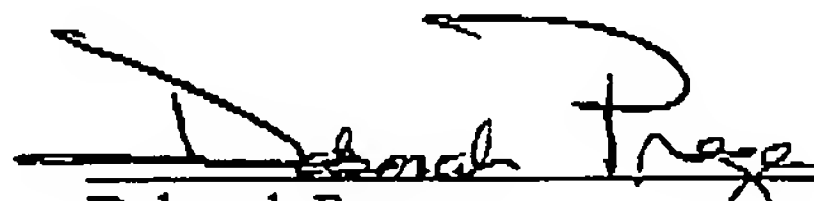

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION
(37 C.F.R. 1.8)

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this Amendment A, including Introductory Comments, Amendments to the Specification, Amendments to the Claims, and Remarks, is being transmitted by facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Art Unit 2854, Attn: Dave . Ghatt, (571) 273-7300 on November 8, 2005.

Dated: November 8, 2005


Deborah Preza